

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SMI-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY:IN:BT

SUBJ: BHUTANESE ARTIFACTS FOR SMITHSONIAN

REF: CALCUTTA 1309 AND 1085

1. RBI CLEARANCE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION. SMITHSONIAN HOPES ALL NINETEEN BOXES IN ITS NAME WILL BE RELEASED BY BHUTANESE FOR AIR-SHIPMENT WITHOUT FURTHER COMPLICATIONS.

2. REGARDING MATERIAL WHICH BHUTANESE WITHHOLDING AS LEVER TO COLLECT DUTIES FROM YABLONGSKY, CALCUTTA 1309 PARA 3 MENTIONS LETTER FROM KARMA DORJI IN THIMPU TO CALCUTTA CUSTOMS LIAISON OFFICER SAYING "HE SHOULD NOT RELEASE THIS GOODS." IN GENERAL CONTEXT, THIS SEEMS TO REFER TO SINGLE PARCEL OF THIRD SHIPMENT, OR SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS IF ANY. THIS AT VAIRANCE WITH ORAL STATEMENT QUOTED IN CALCUTTA'S 1085 " NOT TO RELEASE THIS PACKAGE OR SECOND SHIPMENT OF FIVE PACKAGES." POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT STCB IN CALCUTTA MADE WEEPING ORAL STATEMENT WHILE LETTER MENTIONED IN CALCUTTA 1309 IS MORE ACCURATE AS WELL AS DATED LATER.

3. BHUTANESE AUTHORITIES PERHAPS WITHIN RIGHTS TO HOLD BACK MATERIAL IN YABLONGSKY'S NAME PENDING PAYMENT BY HER OF CUSTOM DUTIES

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FOR WHICH SHE APPARENTLY PREVIOUSLY SIGNED UNDERTAKING. HOWEVER,

EMBARGO, WHICH DIRECTED SOLELY TOWARD INDUCING YABLONSKY PAYMENT, SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED BY BHUTANESE TO NINETEEN BOXES MARKED "PRESENTATION FROM HIS MAJESTY, THE KING OF BHUTAN, TO U.S. GOVERNMENT, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION." IF NECESSARY, SMITHSONIAN WILL CONSIDER TAKING MATTER UP WITH KING OR PRINCE NAMAGYAL BUT HOPES CONGEN CAN ACHIEVE RELEASE OF ALL NINETEEN BOXES WITHOUT SUCH INTERVENTION.

4. SMITHSONIAN EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR CONGEN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS DIFFICULT, TIME CONSUMING AND UNUSUAL PROBLEM. RUSH

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